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# BRANFORD SUPPLY PONDS

*Branford, CT*

The Branford Supply Ponds Park encompasses about 350 acres of open water and forested land that support a variety of recreational activities including fishing, hiking trails and picnic areas. The ponds were created over a century ago through the construction of a 16-foot high stone dam that created a reserve water supply for the Town.

The creation of the dam also effectively eliminated fish passage, cutting off anadromous and diadromous fish from their historic breeding grounds. (Salt-water fish that spawn in fresh water or fish that live both in fresh and salt water.) Restricted access to habitat is a common problem for fish around Long Island Sound. Scientists agree that the loss of breeding areas has been a major contributing factor to the decline in populations of native species such as alewife and herrings,

eels, sea-run trout, salmon, striped bass that depend on freshwater access for part of their life cycle. A fish pass unit has been installed at the at the dam, allowing fish to again gain access to 86 acres of open water, 9 acres of riparian habitat and 5 miles of river and stream habitat. This includes some of the most notable sites in the state including Linsley Lake - a deep pond and Pisgah Brook - the most pristine river habitat in Branford. Yale University will be monitoring the changes that occur when fish access is once again established on previously free-flowing rivers and streams. An electronic fish counter will provide accurate information for this research.

The site has been identified by the State as one of its priority habitats for the CTDEF Anadromous Fish Plan Initiative for restoring fish populations to Long Island Sound.



*Photo by Restore America's Estuaries*

*Citizen involvement in this project was critical to its success, with approximately 1,000 volunteer hours contributed to the fishway installation process. The fish pass was a project completed in partnership with the Branford Land Trust, the Town of Branford, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Branford Rotary Club, the Corporate Wetland Restoration Program and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP).*

## Directions and Parking:

The Branford Supply Ponds can be accessed via Chestnut Street or Short Rocks Road off Mill Plain Road. Parking is available at the intersection of the two streets.

## Permitted Activities:

This site is for passive use only—no motorized vehicles. No swimming is permitted. Dogs are permitted, but are preferred on leash. Please bag and remove any dog waste.

## For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Branford  
Parks and Open Space Authority  
(203) 488-8394, ext. 120

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*



## South Central Regional Council of Governments

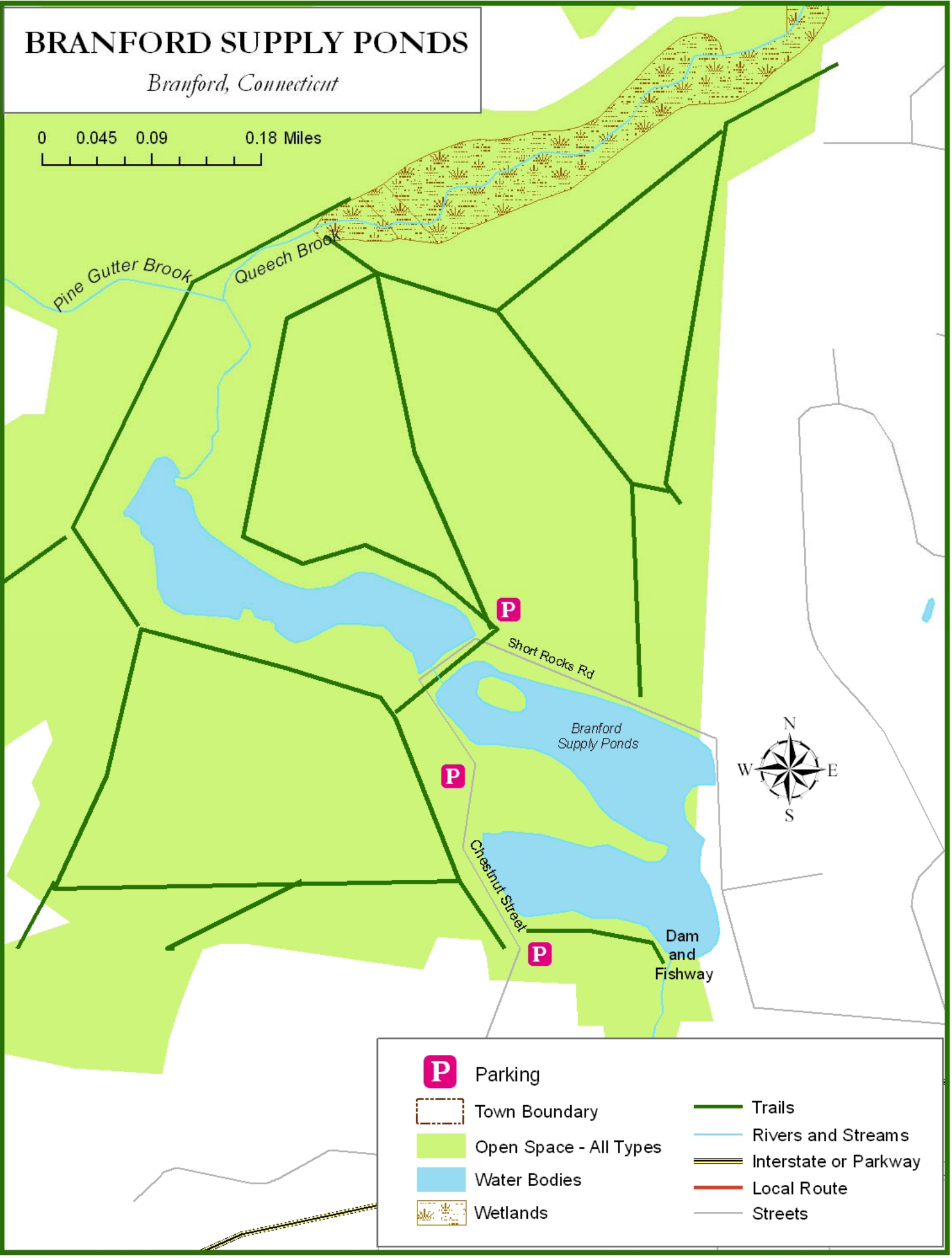
127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
North Haven, CT 06473

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# BRANFORD SUPPLY PONDS

*Branford, Connecticut*

0 0.045 0.09 0.18 Miles



Parking



Town Boundary



Open Space - All Types



Water Bodies



Wetlands

Trails

Rivers and Streams

Interstate or Parkway

Local Route

Streets